23rd March 1948]

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" May I know whether the Government have satisfied themselves that 1½ Nellore measures are equal to one Madras measure? " 2-45 p.m.

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" I do not know the details, Sir, but I am sure the Government have taken into consideration the rates at which these were brought and the rates prevailing at the time."

Leave under the Factories Act.

MR. PRESIDENT :—" The hon. Member Mr. Sarma who put this question is not present. If he should come before the question hour is over, he will be permitted to put supplementary questions."

* 51 Q.—SRI P. R. K. SARMA : Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the leave under the Factories Act due in 1946 and 1947 has not yet been granted to some workers of the Public Works Department Workshop, Madras;

(*b*) whether the concerned trade union has made any representations to the department and the Labour Commissioner about the matter and what action has been taken by them;

(*c*) whether the concerned union has given notice of strike to get the statutory obligation enforced;

(*d*) what action has been taken by the department and the Government in the matter; and

(*e*) whether the Government intend to enforce it?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" (*a*) The Chief Engineer has been asked to submit a report on a complaint that certain workers employed by contractors in the Public Works Department Workshop have not been given the leave due to them under the Act. His report is awaited.

"(*b*) Yes. The matter is under consideration.

"(*c*) Yes. The Public Works Department Workshop Workers Union gave notice in December 1947 stating that if the contract system in the Public Works Department Workshop, Madras, was not abolished admitting the concerned workers retrospectively from July 1946 to all the privileges of permanent departmental workers or alternatively if the privileges such as house rent, leave, holidays with wages, etc., given to the departmental workers were not extended to contract labour before the expiry of fifteen days from the date of re-opening of the workshops after the Christmas holidays, the Union would call out the workers under contractors to strike work without further notice. It was suggested to the President of the Union that he should advise the workers not to precipitate matters as the question was under consideration. The Union has since decided to extend the notice of strike.

[23rd March 1948

"(d) The contract system of labour in the Public Works Department Workshop, Madras is now confined to the Foundry, Pattern and Instrument shops, Safe and lock section and the Wooden shutters section and the Carpentry section. The question whether the contract system of labour should be abolished in any of the branches and if not, whether it should be made obligatory for contractors to ensure certain conditions of service to the workers under them is separately under consideration.

"(e) This will be examined on receipt of certain further particulars called for from the Chief Engineer.

Co-operative building societies in villages.

* 52 Q.—SRI P. VEERABHADRASWAMI: Will the Hon. the Minister for Prohibition be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government have formulated any scheme for building houses in villages where the huts are frequently destroyed by fires; and

(b) whether the Government propose to start co-operative building societies in villages?

THE HON. MR. DANIEL THOMAS:—"(a) No schemes have been drawn up for building houses in villages where huts are frequently destroyed by fire. But a Co-operative House Building Society has been registered near Tenali in Guntur district where the huts of the local weavers were destroyed by fire accidents in 1945.

"(b) Building societies have been started in villages also and no discrimination is shown in the matter of organization of such societies between urban and rural areas, the only consideration being that the requisite conditions for the registration of societies should be forthcoming. The Government have also recently called for proposals for starting housing schemes in rural areas."

Smuggling of papers of Andhra Paper Mills, Rajahmundry.

* 53 Q.—SRI D. KRISHNAMURTHI: Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries be pleased to state—

(a) (1) whether it is a fact that one Mr. G. Sriramulu of Cocanada gave a report to the Collector, East Godavari, on 19th February 1944 through the Commercial Tax Officer, Cocanada, at Rajahmundry Camp, about smuggling of paper of Andhra Paper Mills, Rajahmundry, by country boats in the river Godavari intended to reach Madras for sale in the black-market;

(2) whether it is a fact that an enquiry was made by the Inspector of Civil Supplies on the report of the said G. Sriramulu;

(3) whether the Inspector of Civil Supplies sent a report and, if so, what were his recommendations;